

July 3, 2000

Torri J. Estrada, Program Director  
Urban Habitat Program  
P.O. Box 29908, Presidio Station  
San Francisco, CA 94129

Re: Recommendation on CALFED Solution

Mike Madigan, Chair  
Sunne McPeak, Vice-Chair  
Bay-Delta Advisory Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Steven R. Ritchie, Acting Executive Director  
Eugenia Laychak, BDAC Coordinator  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mike and Sunne:

I would like to formally thank you for your leadership and tremendous efforts to develop a recommendation on the Preferred Program Alternative (PPA) that reflects the concerns and issues of the many stakeholders represented on the Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC). Your facilitation of the BDAC meetings and professional approach made my participation not only productive, but highly enjoyable.

The Recommendation on the CALFED Solution (the Recommendation) submitted on behalf of BDAC not only represents the culmination of almost five years of work, but just six months of hard work by rural and urban environmental justice groups to ensure that CALFED's proposed alternatives to the management of the Bay-Delta ecosystem provide long-term solutions for low-income communities and people of color who rely upon this system for their livelihood, health, sustenance, and enjoyment. The Recommendation incorporates many of the necessary provisions and language to ensure that CALFED's programs address environmental justice.

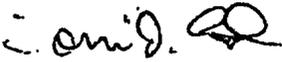
I am hopeful that CALFED agencies will incorporate the provisions for environmental justice contained within the Recommendation into the Record of Decision (ROD) and PPA. Paragraphs f) and #1 provide an important foundation for integrating environmental justice into CALFED's programs, policies, and actions. One important, yet missing component of CALFED has been the lack of analyses to identify and evaluate environmental justice impacts. Paragraphs c), #8, and #10 help broadly identify the areas where analyses are required in CALFED's programs and appropriately recommend that CALFED commit to developing such analyses in its ROD. Most importantly, the Recommendation in paragraph #14 supports the identification of in the ROD a timetable for implementing environmental justice actions, including the development of environmental justice goals and objectives for each of CALFED's programs and dedication of funding and staffing to implement these action.

Although I was invited fairly late into the CALFED process and BDAC proceedings, I remain confident that CALFED agencies will provide the needed assurances within its ROD and PPA to

address environmental justice. While I am very enthusiastic and supportive of the environmental justice-related provisions in the Recommendation, I can only offer my conditional support to the overall document at this time. Because I was invited to be a member of BDAC only last December, the coalition I work with and I did not have enough time to consider the implications of many of the other provisions contained within the Recommendation. The coalition and I were primarily focused on identifying issues and recommendations related to environmental justice. Therefore, it would be inappropriate for me to characterize my support as inclusive of all of the provisions contained in the Recommendation.

I would like to thank Steve Ritchie, the CALFED staff, including Eugenia Laychak, Mary Selkirk, John Lowrie, and Tom Gohring, and Alf Brandt of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for their assistance and willingness to address the issues and concerns of urban and rural environmental justice interests. I look forward to continuing our working relation with CALFED staff and agencies to assure that environmental justice is achieved throughout CALFED's programs.

Sincerely yours,



Bay-Delta Advisory Council Member